

Editorial: The New Year

*The New Year – New minds, new modes, new fools, new wise,
New woes to weep, new joys to prize.*
Thomas Hardy (modified)

Dear Readers,

Through this year, we wish you lots of joys to prize but the absolute lack of any woes to weep.

Referees 1999 (p. 36)

We would like to express our gratitude to all referees who have evaluated the articles published in 1999, print and online (online-first articles), and likewise to all referees of the past years who were not listed by name. The peer reviewers are invited primarily from the editorship, but also from the authors of *Int. J. LCA*. The professionalism and wisdom of the referees form the backbone of the scientific quality of a journal. We feel ourselves especially privileged as the peer-reviewers of *Int. J. LCA* are outstanding with regard to their knowledge and experience. They provide their rare spare time for the sake of a high-standard quality journal.

JLCA (Life Cycle Assessment Society of Japan, *see* p. 4 and pp. 5-11), ISLCA (Indian Society for Life Cycle Assessment, *see* p. 4 and pp. 12-18), KSLCA (Korean Society for Life Cycle Assessment, *see* p. 3)

Int. J. LCA has become the official organ of the three societies in order to

- promote and develop the area of LCA in these countries
- inform about new findings in LCA methodology and application there
- secure the scientific exchange in the area of LCA with all countries

Members of the three societies are entitled to subscribe *Int. J. LCA* at a discount of 50%. According to this model, other LCA societies are invited to join this network as well. Subscription of the printed journal includes the three online editions (*see* below).

Index 1999

Inserted in this January issue is the index 1999 that contains not only the subject and author index, but also the tables of contents to issues No. 1-6 and, further, an index of categories designed for the sake of clarity.

Please let us know if you want us to have the journal bound for you or if you prefer to order special boxes to put the volumes in.

Special Issue "LCA in Japan" (*see* p. 30), edited by Matthias Finkbeiner and Yasunari Matsuno

Outstanding authors contribute to this issue that will be published in September 2000. The coverage is a mirror of the present state of knowledge in LCA methodology and application. Companies that are interested in submitting advertisements for this issue are requested to order space (only full-size advertisements). **Deadline** is the end of March 2000.

New Editors

We are extremely pleased to welcome six new editors (*see* p. 1A):

- Ole J. Hanssen, Norway
- Bo P. Weidema, Denmark
- Arnold Tukker, The Netherlands
- Steven B. Young, Canada
- Lester Lave, USA
- Wulf-Peter Schmidt, Germany

Their readiness and willingness – as of all editorial board members – to serve on the board is greatly appreciated. Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor will compensate their involvement for *Int. J. LCA* by increased and continued attention and carefulness.

Literature-Databank (from journals only)

For the development of a literature databank from journals, we ask our authors to provide the abstracts of the cited articles. Electronic presentation is, of course, preferred, and as long as own publications are concerned, this should be possible.

Online Editions: Databank – Online-First – Web Edition

Two modifications are already available to you:

1. The **databank** of published articles which can be called up by keywords. It has been active since 1998 (<http://www.scientificjournals.com/db>),
2. The **Online-First** forum with the available articles which have been accepted for publication. It has been active since October 1999 (<http://www.scientificjournals.com/onlinefirst>).

Parallel to the preparations for printing, the databank is actualized and Online-First is updated immediately following the final acceptance of the articles and the completion of corrections by the author.

The third module, entitled **Web Edition**, provides access to the published articles by way of the **Table of Contents** of every individual new issue (with access via the Online Editions) and will be available beginning at the end of January 2000 (<http://www.scientificjournals.com/web>). This third online version is more or less identical with the printed issue. Nevertheless, we will also employ the specific possibilities available to the internet; references will be made concerning the different individual forms of the articles in each of the printed issues.

The three Online Editions (up to and including the abstracts) are available to anyone who is interested. A password (PW) must be entered as soon as the full article is to be called up. The PW is your six-digit order number which you have received from our prescription service when you first subscribed for our publication (or from the editorial staff, mail to: s.rapp@ecom.de). Library access is available via the IP address.

Please also note the **home pages** of the individual journals (which can be reached most readily via the start page, <http://www.scientificjournals.com>). These sites are accessible to all and will provide full information concerning the periodical itself, as well as about any alterations. In addition, the editorials and tables of contents, as well as a broad presentation of all the articles which are not to be found in one of the Online Editions, are available here. These sites also undergo continuous actualizations.

Last but not least, there is the **Global LCA Village** (LCA Internet Discussion Forum) at <http://www.scientificjournals.com/lca/village/>, which has grown very nicely. It deserves a 'click' once a week and invites for contributions.

With our best wishes for a healthy, pleasant, and successful year, also on behalf of our Managing Director, Harald Heim, we remain Yours,

Almut Beate Heinrich and Walter Klöpffer